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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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March 20, 2012

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO A SOLE
SOURCE CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH THE REGENTS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES**

This memo is to comply with the Board of Supervisors Policy Manual, Section 5.100, Sole Source Contracts. It is the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's (DMH) intent to enter into a sole source contract amendment with The Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), located at 10833 Le Conte Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90095, for providing training in the Families OverComing Under Stress (FOCUS) Family Resiliency Training™ program, consultation, and model supervision.

Developed at UCLA and Harvard Medical School, FOCUS Family Resiliency Training™ is a trauma-informed, family-centered resiliency training program designed to assist families experiencing high levels of stress, including military and veteran families dealing with stress from deployment and reintegration. FOCUS consists of several levels of intervention including the following: individual family training, group (child and parent) resiliency skill building, community/provider level psycho-education, and core resiliency principles. Designed to enhance individual and family resilience (resilience is defined as the ability to cope with, adapt to, and overcome challenges), FOCUS Family Resiliency Training™ has been shown to improve psychological health outcomes in adults and children, improve family adjustment, and enhance positive coping skills. FOCUS is based on leading evidenced-based family intervention models for at-risk families, and aims to enhance family cohesion. The main goal of FOCUS is to strengthen parent-child, marital, and co-parenting relationships by helping families develop a shared understanding of past experiences, and building skills such as: emotional regulation, communication, problem solving, goal setting, and managing trauma and loss reminders.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

The proposed training will bring adult and child/family mental health services workers together as a team to provide support, guidance, and assistance to families facing crises as a result of United States service members returning from combat and/or preparing for deployments. Approximately forty percent (40%) of the returning veterans are parents, placing a large number of military families and children at risk. The trainings will enable specialized mental health teams to provide customized parenting, child, and family sessions. Each series will support family communication, enhanced understanding, family skill development and practice, family resiliency and cohesion, and increased social support.

UCLA is uniquely qualified as the sole provider to deliver services encompassed in this consultant services agreement as they have developed the FOCUS Family Resiliency Training™ program and established expertise in the delivery of training, consultation, and model supervision. A sole source contract amendment with UCLA will expand the capacity of DMH to provide evidence-based services to veterans and their families. It will prevent more costly or disruptive crises for families and children of departing and/or returning Los Angeles County military service members.

This contract amendment is in the total amount of \$431,854 for Fiscal Year 2012-13 only, and it is fully funded by Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention dollars.

Unless otherwise instructed by a Board office within two weeks, DMH will proceed with negotiating a sole source contract agreement. DMH will work closely with both the Office of the County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office in preparing an amendment with UCLA.

MJS:CW:CPM

c: Health Deputies
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